



## St. Gabriel's C. E. Primary School

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December 2016

### Newsletter No. 4

Dear Parents,

**Dodgeball Tournament** – Congratulations to the children who took part in the Dodgeball Tournament on Tuesday 29th November. Team members included: Aasiyah Hasan, Libby Forrest-Yates, Heather Phelan, Isobel Ramsden, Frankie Fardella, Matthew Barlow, Rhys Barwell, Callum Boulwood.



**Good luck to the Netball Team** as they start to play in the local league on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Team members include: Libby Forrest-Yates, Isobel Ramsden, Zara Craghill, Heather Phelan, Azra Shaik, Laiba Khan, Fatimah-Zahra Abdulgani.

**Thank you to Year 6** who led our Remembrance Service in school on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks also to Summer Riddehough for playing 'The Last Post'.

**Primary School Applications – September 2017** – The deadline date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January. Parents are requested to apply online at [www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/admissions).

**Children in Need on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November – The Big Spotacular!** – Non-uniform day with spots and stripes as the theme. Thank you to everyone who took part in this fund raising event, a total of £271 was raised.



**Christmas Raffle** – Please support this Christmas fund raising event which is being run by the School Council. You can purchase raffle tickets: £1 for a strip, £3 for 5 strips or £5 for 10 strips. There are some wonderful prizes including: a child's comfy chair, table football game, art box, jewellery making kit, books, pens, selection boxes and a very large cuddly teddy bear!



**Play Leader Training** – Year 5 have taken part in 'Play Leader Training' for two afternoons during November, learning essential skills to encourage sporting and play skills with younger children.



**Reception Class Talks** – Thank you to Mr. Hilliard for talking to the Reception Class about the Fire Service. The children were able to see the breathing apparatus equipment being demonstrated. They have also had a talk from a Community Police Officer and the Lollypop Man, Mr. Cannings.



**Life Education Van** will be visiting school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. All classes will have a session in the van learning about all aspects of healthy lifestyles.

**Holiday List January 2017 – July 2018** – Please note that a holiday list showing holidays to July 2018 is attached to this Newsletter. This list is also available from the school office and on the school website. Please do not refer to any other online holiday lists other than those published by school.

**Absence from school** – If your child is absent due to illness, please telephone school by 9.30 a.m., if possible, to let us know that they will not be in.





### Parking around School

We once again ask that parents do not stop in the road to drop children off or block residents' driveways. We also request that you refrain from parking on the access road into school. Congestion is an increasing issue. Parents are encouraged to park on the Knowles Arms car park at the beginning and end of the day (agreed with the landlord) and walk children into school.



**Snowy Weather:** Please note, in the event that school would need to close due to bad weather, parents would be informed by text and a message would be put on the website at [www.stgabrielssch.co.uk](http://www.stgabrielssch.co.uk). **We will NOT be using the school radio services as these are often 'hit and miss'**. Thank you.



**Postage Stamps** – Please could you send your used postage stamps into school? Hopefully you will have many at this time of year! They are taken to East Lancashire Hospice where they are exchanged for cash to boost their much needed funds. Many thanks to everyone already supporting this worthy cause.

### Regular Activities After School

Monday	Ukulele Group 3.30 – 4.15 p.m. – ongoing Netball Practice – Y6/Y5 girls – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing
Tuesday	Gym Club – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing
Wednesday	Orchestra Practice 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing Y6 Maths Club – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. - ongoing
Thursday	Choir Practice for Juniors – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing Y5 Maths Club – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing
Friday	Absolute Sports (Various) – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing

### Christmas Celebrations



**Posada Nativity figures** were sent out week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> November. This is a lovely Mexican tradition whereby your child will receive a figure from the nativity tableau to take home for the evening, along with a special book to write your special thoughts or prayers. Please take special care of the figures you receive as you welcome the true meaning of Christmas into your home.



**Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be performing 'Away in a Manger' on:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15 p.m. Mince pies and coffee will be served by the Friends. **A separate class letter has been sent home with more details.**



**The Junior Children, Choir and Orchestra will be leading our Candlelit Carol Service on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.** Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are not required to attend. Those wishing to bring Infant children may do so, but must sit together in the main congregation. This is an extra special occasion, full of Christmas cheer and excitement. We warmly invite all parents, friends and families to join us. The service will last under an hour. It is an important service, and it is anticipated **that all Junior children will attend.** It is hugely disappointing, to all those involved, when children do not attend key school events. **Please ensure you return the slip below in the unfortunate event that your child is unable to attend.**



**'TROLLS'** Big screen show Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, £3 contribution includes a choc ice for the interval! **A separate letter has been sent home with more details.**



**Pocket Money Stall, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – afternoon. This is a magical event. Please support the Friends and come and 'wrap' if you are able! Please contact the office if you are able to help. **Children have brought home envelopes with tags included.**



**Party Day** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> will combine our special Christmas lunch with the Junior talent show (always a favourite with staff) and a special visitor for the infants! **This is a non-uniform day – party clothes instead.**

**Dates for Diaries/Activities in School**

Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Choir to sing in Blackburn Cathedral – Lunchtime Carols – all choir members
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Choir to sing at The Fire and Rescue Christmas Carol Service at 7.30 p.m. – all choir members
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Choir to sing at Christmas Spectacular – Y5 and Y6 members only
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	Life Education Van in School
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Nativity – 2.15 p.m.
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Nativity – 2.15 p.m.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Nativity – 2.15 p.m.
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	Community Cinema in School – ‘Trolls’ – afternoon
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pocket Money Stall – afternoon Candlelit Carol Service in Church – 7.00 p.m.
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Special Christmas lunch in school Party Day – Non Uniform Junior Talent Show
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School closes for the Christmas holidays
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	School re-opens

**Christmas  
at St. Gabriel’s Church, Brownhill**

**Sunday 18 December (Advent 4)**

9.00am Holy Communion (said)

10.30am Carols and Readings by candlelight

*Followed by All Stars Christmas Party (primary school age - bookings to Alison at Church)*

**Tuesday 20 December**

7.00pm St. Gabriel's School Service

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Nativity Service (child friendly)

11.15pm Holy Communion by candlelight

**Christmas Day**

10.00am Christmas Holy Communion (all ages)

**Sunday 1 January (Christmas 2)**

9.00am Holy Communion (said)

10.30am All-Age Communion

**The staff and Governors wish you all a very Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful New Year.**

Yours sincerely,  
**B. Haigh**  
Headteacher

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**Junior Carol Service**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

My child is unable to attend the Carol Service on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this slip to your child's class teacher or direct to the school office.



# St. Gabriel's C.E. Primary School – Holiday List January 2017 – July 2018

<b>Spring Term 2017- Re-open</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Half Term	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February
<u>Closure</u>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
Easter	Closure after school on Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Summer Term 2017</b>	(Y6 SATs week: 8 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> May)
Re-open	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Holiday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May
Half Term	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Re-open	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
<u>Closure</u>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June (Staff Training Day)
Summer	Closure after school on Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
<b>Autumn Term 2017</b>	
<u>Closure</u>	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Half Term	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
<u>Closure</u>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas	Closure after school on Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>Spring Term 2018</b>	
Re-open	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Half Term	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
<u>Closure</u>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Easter	Closure after school on Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Summer Term 2018</b>	(Y6 SATs week: 14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May)
Re-open	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Holiday	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May
Half Term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
<u>Closure</u>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Summer	Closure after school on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July